

System and Method for Multifunction Menu Objects**ABSTRACT**

A system and method for providing multiple functions from a menu item is provided. A menu item is configurable to include graphical components, such as icons, that can be selected by a user to launch specific functions. In a word processing example, a word processing menu item, such as a menu item displayed from a "start programs" menu, can include icons corresponding to functions such as search for documents and list recently edited documents directly from the menu item. Another icon is used to display functions in a sub-menu that is displayed to the user. Menu items can be configured to include both functions that are invoked directly from the menu item as well as a sub-menu that can include additional functions. A configuration tool is provided to allow the user to customize a menu item by including certain functions on the menu item and certain functions in a sub-menu.